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examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

Dated: October 17, 2003

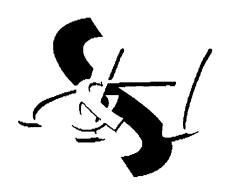
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pc: Mr. Jim Sowerwine

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment A, including Amendments to the Specification, Amendments to the Claims, and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 3711, Attn: Mr. Alvin A. Hunter, (703) 872-9302 on October 17, 2003.

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